

HEALTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

October 29, 2013

5:30 p.m.

Courthouse

MINUTES:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Rhonda Allen
Commissioner Carol Cook
Commissioner Will Jordan
Commissioner Jeff Phillips
Commissioner Chantho Sourinho
Commissioner Jeff Jordan, C

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ernest Burgess
Dana Garrett
Jeff Sandvig
Angeline Hale
Christa Tabor
Lisa Nolen
Gary Clardy
Don Odom
Gale Vogel
Becky Shelton

Chairman J. Jordan presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with six members being present at that time.

MINUTES:

"Commissioner Cook moved, seconded by Commissioner J. Phillips, to approve the minutes of the last meeting. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

COMMUNITY CARE REPORT:

Chairman J. Jordan presented the October 3, 2013 Community Care minutes for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner J. Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Sourinho, to approve the Community Care report. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

Chairman Jordan reminded the Committee the next meeting would be December 4 at 5:30 at the Community Care facility with a tour beginning at 4:30 p.m.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Dana Garrett presented the Health Department report for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Allen moved, seconded by Commissioner Cook, to approve the Health Department report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT:

Lisa Nolen presented the Special Projects report for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner W. Jordan moved, seconded by Commissioner Sourinho, to approve the Special Projects report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT:

The Committee was advised there were no budget amendments at this time.

Superintendent Odom reported the Rutherford County School Board has been selected as the Tennessee School Board of the Year and Stewarts Creek High School has been designated best school design.

Superintendent Odom next addressed the Committee regarding funding for the 4,700 square foot renovation and 6,800 square foot addition at Smyrna Primary which includes a new library/media center, cafeteria serving/dining expansion, new entrance canopy and seven new classrooms which would have a net increase of three if the portables are removed. The Committee was advised the portables would probably remain as they may not hold up in transport. Smyrna Primary was

originally built in 1963 and has experienced 7% growth to date this year. Liberty Construction was the lowest bid at \$2,266,500 which was \$67,000 higher than anticipated. The Committee was advised the School Board can cover \$66,500 and needs \$2,200,000 from the Commission.

Dr. Gale Vogel, Principal at Smyrna Primary, addressed the Committee advising the school has had no computer lab for the last four years. Staff has improvised and put power poles in the library for laptops. Also, the small stage area was turned into a classroom and is now used as a computer lab for 22 or 23 laptops. Dr. Vogel advised food service averages 250 breakfasts served from 6:50 to 7:20 a.m. and averages 465 lunches served from 10:00 to 12:30 p.m. serving one homeroom every five minutes. 72.4% qualify for free or reduced meals with 93.8% participation. As of October 25, there were 584 students enrolled. Increases in population over the last five years have been 3.3%, 2.2%, 2.9%, 3.4% and 7%. The Boys & Girls Club is across the street and this makes the school popular for after school care.

Dr. Odom advised a guesstimate would be the construction would provide for seventy additional seats and if the growth continues the School Board will have to rezone. The gym was added to the school in 1989 and this is the last major project at this school.

Commissioner W. Jordan advised it is hard to achieve equity in all schools when there are so many.

The Committee was advised the last time the school was able to have Grandparents' Day, Thanksgiving or Christmas lunch and invite parents was in 2010.

It is anticipated construction will take six months but can start immediately with funding. The bid has already been extended twice and Mr. Clardy has asked for an additional thirty days. Finance Director Nolen advised an interfund transfer could be done to get to the next borrowing. Smyrna owes \$550,000 to the School Board and Ms. Nolen has sent a letter requesting payment advising it would be her recommendation to apply those monies toward the Smyrna Primary project. The County will know if it will be getting these funds by the time it is ready to borrow. Mayor Burgess advised the County does have the capacity to borrow the whole \$2,200,000 and should proceed accordingly subject to receipt of funds from Smyrna. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Cook moved, seconded by Commissioner Allen, to move forward with the Smyrna Primary project at \$2,200,000 and forward to the Budget Committee. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS FOR ACADEMICS:

Chairman J. Jordan advised the Commission has long recognized students for athletic achievements and he wanted to consider honors for academics especially for graduating seniors. Chairman J. Jordan reminded the Committee the County has private schools and will probably want to include those. Commissioner W. Jordan advised the idea sounded good but how to determine who to honor is the question. Superintendent Odom advised the National Merit would take it to a higher level. Chairman J. Jordan advised in February seniors are rated by their GPA and will know the best student by grade point average at that time. Superintendent Odom advised these are usually acknowledged at graduation with different colors. There are also different levels of classroom difficulty. Chairman J. Jordan advised the County has honored just about all sports and schools but the doors are opened everyday for academics and this may be more than the Commission can do. Commissioner W. Jordan advised the Commission could let the principals bring forth as they see fit. Commissioner Allen questioned if the Commission had done this last year how many would have been honored. Superintendent Odom advised they could get the numbers together to review for GPA's and the National Merit. Commissioner Allen advised she thought any

acknowledgement should be done before May so as not to be in the busy time of year. Chairman J. Jordan advised the figures on GPA are available in late February so this could be done in March, April and May and the School Board could join with the Commission. Commissioner Cook advised she thought the School Board should do. Commissioner Allen advised she thought it created equity between academics and athletics and she liked the Commission doing it. Commissioner J. Phillips advised he thought it was a slippery slope as may overlook others just as deserving. Superintendent Odom will make a recommendation at the December 4 meeting.

There appearing to be no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman J. Jordan declared the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

JEFF JORDAN, Chairman